

the committee on which I serve, the committee which authorizes the expenditures we must make if we are to keep our Nation strong, the Armed Services Committee. I thank him. He has been and is an inspiration to me. His dedication, his thoughtfulness, his courtliness—I thank him for all.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Georgia, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

In my capacity as a Senator from Georgia, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, at 12:30 p.m., the Senate recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reassembled at 2:42 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNETT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business for Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent during confirmation vote on the nomination of Michael Hayden to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency because I had returned to Colorado to honor commitments to my family. I want the RECORD to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted in favor of confirmation.

I was also necessarily absent during the cloture vote on the nomination of Dirk Kempthorne to be Secretary of the Interior. I support this nomination, and I want the RECORD to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted in favor of invoking cloture.

And I was necessarily absent during confirmation vote on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the DC Circuit. I want the RECORD to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted against confirmation.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, had I been present for the vote to invoke cloture on the nomination of my former colleague, Dirk Kempthorne, to be Secretary of the Interior, I would have cast a vote of "aye".

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this week we are in a rush to finish our business so we can head home for the Memorial Day Recess.

Memorial Day signals the beginning of summer, when children are out of school and families get to spend time together.

It's a time for vacations and trips to the shore, and backyard barbecues.

But most important of all, Memorial Day is also the time when we remember the brave soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

This year there are almost a thousand more names on that list than last Memorial Day.

In total 2,750 troops have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan: 2,455 in Iraq and 295 in Afghanistan.

Almost 18,000 more have been seriously wounded.

I keep a gallery of the pictures of the fallen outside my office in the Hart building. More and more people come to visit it, and I encourage my colleagues, their staff and our constituent guests to view it and honor the memories of these heroes.

New Jersey families have lost 71 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last year, near Memorial Day, I read the names of New Jersey's fallen troops into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, where they would be enshrined for all time.

Fifteen more New Jerseyans have died since then. Today, with your indulgence, I would like to read their names and hometowns into the RECORD:

SSG Jeremy A. Brown, whose mother lives in West Orange; SPC Armer N. Burkart, Blairstown; PFC Ryan D. Christensen, whose mother lives in Brick; LTC Terrence K. Crowe, member of the U.S. Army Reserve in Lodi, NJ; SFC Michael Egan, his mother resides in Pennsauken; SGT Clarence L. Floyd, his mother resides in Newark; CPT James M. Gurbisz, Eatontown; SSG Edward Karolasz, Kearny; SPC Gennaro Pellegrini, Jr., whose father resides in Wildwood; CPT Charles D. Robinson, Haddon Heights; LCpl Edward A. Schroeder, South Orange; SSG Stephen J. Sutherland, West Deptford; 2LT Dennis W. Zilinski, Howell; SSG Christian Longsworth, Newark; and SGT Matthew Fenton, Little Ferry.

On this Memorial Day, I hope every American will pause to give thanks for the brave soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY JEAN PRICE

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, next week, on June 2, Ms. Nancy Jean Price will retire from my office having served the people of South Carolina for over 30 years as a congressional con-

stituent liaison. I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and dedication she demonstrated throughout her extensive and distinguished career.

A native South Carolinian, Jean is the daughter of Mr. Joe B. and Mrs. Trula W. Price. She graduated from Lander University in Greenwood and began her career as a congressional staffer in the office in the office of former U.S. Representative Butler Derrick, who represented South Carolina's Third Congressional District from 1974 to 1994. Jean wore many hats for Congressman Derrick in his Anderson, SC, district office. Whether working as a constituent liaison, a special events coordinator, a caseworker, or even as a manager, Jean went above and beyond what was required to address any task or challenge she confronted.

Following Congressman Derrick's retirement in 1994, I was elected to Congress and was fortunate Jean accepted a constituent services position in my Aiken office. After my election to the Senate in 2002, I promoted Jean to low-country regional director, and she helped establish our office in Mt. Pleasant.

In the 12 years Jean has worked on my staff, she has consistently and selflessly served constituents, answered questions, and solved countless problems. In doing so, Jean has garnered the personal and professional respect and admiration of her friends and colleagues. She is an upstanding member of society. She represents the very finest in Christian values dedicating much of her free time to church and community work in various leadership and service positions. But above all, Jean has been dedicated to her family.

While well deserved, Jean's retirement is a great loss for me and the State of South Carolina. Her service heart will serve as the gold standard for all staff that follow behind her. I will miss Jean, but I wish her a prosperous retirement and great success and happiness in the future.

THE PATRIOT LOAN ACT OF 2006

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to comment on legislation introduced yesterday, S. 3122, the Patriot Loan Act of 2006. It is called the Patriot Loan Act for that is who the legislation is intended to benefit, patriot citizen-soldiers who are called from their employment at America's small businesses to serve our country in uniform. I am proud to join with Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, who serves as the chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, as an original cosponsor of this important bill.

All of us in the Senate come from States affected by the mobilization of our Guard and Reserve personnel. In my home State, the Idaho National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team turned last fall from its 18-month deployment to Iraq. I visited members of the 116th while they were in Iraq and discovered that a good number of them